Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended): A program execution state monitoring method using a computer for acquiring a plurality of item values associated with the program execution state at intervals linked to ~~the~~ a plurality of items corresponding to the item values, and stored in a storage device, the method comprising the steps of:

comparing a~~n~~ item value of ~~one of the items among~~ an item of the plurality of items to a condition linked to the item and stored in the storage device~~,~~;

if the condition is not satisfied, ~~modifying the~~ decreasing an interval of ~~the~~ an item belonging to a group linked to the compared item and stored in the storage device ~~to a value smaller than the interval~~,; and

~~modifying the~~ increasing an interval of at least one item ~~of the items~~ not belonging to said group ~~to a value greater than the interval~~.

2.   (currently amended): A program execution state monitoring method as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the steps of:

storing ~~the~~ an initial value, first and second minimum values, and first and second maximum values of each of said intervals linked to the plurality of items while correlating ~~them~~ the initial value, first and second minimum values, and first and second maximum values with ~~the~~ respective items associated with the program execution state~~,~~;

if the interval of one of the plurality of items ~~being~~ for which a value is acquired

2

a value is greater than said initial value, ~~deciding~~ making the interval of the one item

so as to be equal to or greater than said first minimum value and not greater than

said first maximum value linked to the one item according to the value acquired~~,~~; and

if the interval of one of the plurality of items ~~being~~for which a value is acquired

a value is smaller than said initial value, ~~deciding~~ making the interval of the one item

so as to be equal to or greater than said second minimum value and not greater than

said second maximum value linked to the one item according to the value acquired.

3.   (currently amended): A program execution state monitoring method as

claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the steps of:

storing in a storage device an initial value, ~~a~~ first and ~~a~~ second minimum

values, ~~and a~~ first and ~~a~~ second maximum values of each of the plurality of ~~the~~

intervals, and a reference value for the variation ratio each of the intervals linked to

~~the~~ respective items associated with the program execution state~~,~~;

modifying said interval of said one item to be smaller than said interval and

not smaller than said first minimum value related to said one item if an absolute

value of a variation ratio of the value of said one item acquired is not smaller than

said reference value linked to said one item and greater than said initial value stored

in said storage device~~,~~;

modifying said interval of said one item to be smaller than said interval and

not smaller than said second minimum value related to said one item if an absolute

value of a variation ratio of the value of said one item acquired is not smaller than

said reference value linked to said one item and smaller than said initial value stored

in said storage device~~,~~;

modifying said interval of said one item to be greater than said interval and

not greater than said first maximum value linked to said one item if an absolute value of a variation ratio of the value of said one item acquired is smaller than said reference value linked to said one item and greater than said initial value stored in said storage device,; and

modifying said interval of said one item to be greater than said interval and not greater than said second maximum value related to said one item if an absolute value of a variation ratio of the value of said one item acquired is smaller than said reference value linked to said one item and smaller than said initial value stored in said storage device.

4.   (currently amended): A program execution state monitoring method using a computer for acquiring a plurality of item values associated with the program execution state at intervals linked to the respective a plurality of items corresponding to the item values, and stored in a storage device, the method comprising the steps of:

comparing an item value of one of the items among an item of the plurality of items to a condition stored in the storage device,;

if the condition is not satisfied, modifying the decreasing an interval of each item linked to the compared item to a value smaller than the interval,; and

if the item value of the an item associated with the a computer load is different from the condition linked to the item and stored in the storage device, modifying the decreasing an interval of at least one of the plurality of items associated with the program execution state and having an interval not smaller than the an initial value linked to the item and stored in the storage device to a greater value than the interval.

4

5.   (currently amended): A program execution state monitoring method as claimed in claim 4, the method further comprising the steps of:

storing in a the storage device an the initial value, a first and a second minimum values, and a first and a second maximum values of the interval, and a reference value for the variation ratio of each of the intervals which are linked to the respective items associated with the program execution state;

modifying said interval of said one item to be smaller than said interval and not smaller than said first minimum value linked to said one item if an absolute value of a variation ratio of the value of said one item acquired is not smaller than said reference value linked to said one item and greater than said initial value stored in said storage device;

modifying said interval of said one item to be smaller than said interval and not smaller than said second minimum value linked to said one item if an absolute value of a variation ratio of the value of said one item acquired is not smaller than said reference value linked to said one item and smaller than said initial value stored in said storage device;

modifying said interval of said one item to be greater than said interval and not greater than said first maximum value linked to said one item if an absolute value of a variation ratio of the value of said one item acquired is smaller than said reference value linked to said one item and greater than said initial value stored in said storage device; and

modifying said interval of said one item to be greater than said interval and not greater than said second maximum value linked to said one item if an absolute value of a variation ratio of the value of said one item acquired is smaller than said

reference value linked to said one item and smaller than said initial value stored in said storage device.

6.   (currently amended): A program execution state monitoring method using a computer for acquiring a plurality of item values associated with the program execution state at intervals linked to ~~the respective~~ a plurality of items corresponding to the item values, and stored in a storage device, the method comprising the steps of:

comparing an item value of ~~one~~ an item of the plurality of items to a condition stored in the storage ~~device,~~ device; and

when the condition is not satisfied and ~~the~~ an item value of ~~the~~ an item associated with ~~the~~ a computer load satisfies the condition ~~linked to the item~~ and stored in the storage device, ~~modifying~~ decreasing the interval of ~~the respective~~ each of the plurality of items linked to the compared ~~one~~ item ~~to a smaller value than the interval~~.

7.   (currently amended): A program execution state monitoring method as claimed in claim 6, wherein if the item value of the item associated with the computer load does not satisfy the condition ~~linked to the item and~~ stored in the storage device, ~~the~~ an interval of at least one of the items associated with the program execution state and having a value not smaller than ~~the~~ an initial value linked to the item and stored in the storage device is increased~~modified to a greater value than the interval~~.

8.   (currently amended): A program execution state monitoring method as

claimed in claim 7, the method further comprising the steps of:

storing in a the storage device an the initial value, a first and a second

minimum values, and a first and a second maximum values of each of the plurality of

intervals, and a reference value for the variation ratio of each of the intervals which

are related to the respective items associated with the program execution state;

modifying said interval of said one item to be smaller than said interval and

not smaller than said first minimum value related to said one item if an absolute

value of a variation ratio of the value of said one item acquired is not smaller than

said reference value related to said one item and greater than said initial value

stored in said storage device;

modifying said interval of said one item to be smaller than said interval and

not smaller than said second minimum value related to said one item if an absolute

value of a variation ratio of the value of said one item acquired is not smaller than

said reference value related to said one item and smaller than said initial value

stored in said storage device;

modifying said interval of said one item to be greater than said interval and

not greater than said first maximum value related to said one item if an absolute

value of a variation ratio of the value of said one item acquired is smaller than said

reference value related to said one item and greater than said initial value stored in

said storage device; and

modifying said interval of said one item to be greater than said interval and

not greater than said second maximum value related to said one item if an absolute

value of a variation ratio of the value of said one item acquired is smaller than said

reference value related to said one item and smaller than said initial value stored in

said storage device.

7

9.   (currently amended): A program execution state monitoring method using a computer for acquiring a plurality of item values associated with the program execution state at intervals related to ~~the respective~~ a plurality of items corresponding to the item values and stored in a storage device, the method comprising the steps of:

comparing a~~n~~ item value of ~~one of the items among~~ an item of the plurality of items to a condition stored in the storage device~~,~~; and

when the condition is not satisfied and the number of items related to the ~~item~~ compared item is equal to or smaller than a predetermined value, ~~modifying~~ decreasing the interval of the respective items related to the compared ~~one~~ item ~~to a smaller value than the interval~~.

10.   (currently amended): A program execution state monitoring method using a computer for acquiring a plurality of item values associated with the program execution state at intervals related to ~~the respective~~ a plurality of items corresponding to the item values and stored in a storage device, the method comprising the steps of:

storing in the storage device a first group consisting of at least one of the plurality of item values;~~items related to the respective items,~~

when one of the at least one of the plurality of item values ~~items~~ does not satisfy ~~the~~ a condition related to ~~the~~ a respective first item of the plurality of items and stored in the storage device, and ~~there is~~ when a second group related to ~~an~~ a second item different from the ~~one~~ first item and including items ~~whose~~ having intervals ~~are~~ smaller than ~~the~~ an initial value set for the intervals, ~~modifying~~ changing

the intervals of the respective items to the initial values~~,~~; and

modifying decreasing the interval of each of the items belonging to the group

related to the ~~one~~ first item ~~to a value smaller than the interval~~.

11.   (currently amended): A program execution state monitoring method

using a plurality of computers connected in such a manner that they can

communicate with one another for acquiring a plurality of item values associated

with execution states of a program executed on the computers at intervals related to

~~the respective~~ a plurality of items corresponding to the item values and stored, the

method comprising the steps of:

comparing a~~n~~ item value acquired for ~~one~~ a first item of the plurality of items

to a condition related to the ~~one~~ first item and stored by one of the plurality of

computers~~,~~;

if the item value does not satisfy the condition, extracting ~~the~~ a second item

related to the ~~one~~ first item and stored in a storage device and at least one of a

plurality of items not related to the ~~one~~ first item by at least one of said one of the

plurality of computers or another computer~~,~~;

modifying ~~the~~ an interval related to the extracted second item related to the

~~one~~ first item and stored in the storage device to an interval smaller than the interval

stored by said one of said plurality of computers or another computer different from

~~it,~~said one of said plurality of computers; and

modifying ~~the~~ an interval related to the extracted second item not related to

the ~~one~~ first item and stored in the storage device to an interval greater than the

interval stored by said one of said plurality of computers or another computer

different from ~~it~~said one of said plurality of computers.

12-20. (canceled).